



MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bogus E-mail Jury Summons Is Promo For TV Show, State Court Administrator Warns

LANSING, MI, January 11, 2002 - A phony online juror questionnaire, part of a promotion for a Warner Brothers TV show, should not mislead Michigan citizens, the State Court Administrative Office warned today.

Scores of people from Los Angeles to Philadelphia have reported receiving the e-mail. Several trial courts in Michigan and Michigan's State Court Administrative Office have been contacted by persons receiving the e-mail. The e-mail has a subject line that reads, "Jury Duty Notification," an official-looking seal and the following message:

In accordance with the new online juror notification system (effective Jan. 1, 2002), please be advised that you have been selected for jury duty service. You are hereby summoned by the Superior Court for service as a trial juror, and must be available any day during the week of 2/11/02.

Your failure to respond to this summons will result in a hearing before a judicial officer. At that hearing, penalties including a possible fine of up to \$1500 or more may be imposed. You must complete the following form to comply. Your answers to these questions will be used by the court to place you in an appropriate jury.

If the recipient fills out the form and clicks "submit," an ad for a show called "The Jamie Kennedy Experiment" on the WB network appears.

State Court Administrator John Ferry noted that Michigan does not have a 'Superior Court' and does not send juror summonses via the Internet. "We advise anyone receiving this e-mail that it is not legitimate and should be ignored," he said.

Ferry said that the Michigan judiciary is committed to improving the selection and treatment of jurors in the state. "Jurors are essential to our system of justice," said Ferry. "We value their time, commitment, and the sacrifices that they make to perform this important role in our justice system. These phony jury summonses exhibit extremely poor judgment and a lack of respect for our justice system, not to mention a lack of respect for the public at large."

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